

Proposed National Agricultural Museum Would Tell Story of the Men Who Have Contributed So Much to Greatness of America: Her Farmers

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SOME day the United States may have a national museum, the purpose of which will be to tell the story of those Americans who, since this nation was founded, have contributed so much to its prosperity and to its standing as the greatest nation on earth. Those Americans are our farmers.

When that museum is built and put into operation, it will not be a place of static exhibits, a storehouse of ancient relics in glass cases with written or printed labels to explain their meaning. Instead, it will be a "living museum" which presents graphically not only the history of agriculture's past but also the story of its present and its promise for the future.

The establishment of such a museum was forecast recently when the National Agricultural Jefferson Bicentenary committee made a pilgrimage to Charlottesville, Va., there to visit the University of Virginia and Monticello and pay tribute to the man whom Claude R. Wickard, secretary of agriculture and chairman of the committee, characterized as the "Founder of Modern American Agriculture"—Thomas Jefferson. Another speaker on this occasion—and the man who made the proposal for a national agricultural museum—was Herbert A. Kellar, director of the McCormick Historical association in Chicago. Speaking on the subject of "Living Agricultural Museums," he said in part:

Let us consider for a moment what should be the character of a National Agricultural museum. It should probably be located in Washington, or other appropriate place in the United States, housed in one or more large buildings, and surrounded with appropriate landscaping. Here, outdoors and under glass, should be shown in cultivation representative trees, shrubs, fruits, plants, flowers, and other vegetation of the United States. The outer walls of the buildings should present bas reliefs showing the evolution of agriculture in this country from the primitive Indian culture of the time of first settlement to the mechanized farming of the present day. On the inner walls should be placed large murals depicting famous agricultural events and scenes. Thus, might be found Eli Whitney experimenting with his cotton gin, Elkanah Watson holding the first agricultural fair, Cyrus Hall McCormick trying out his first reaper, or Lincoln signing the act creating the land-grant colleges.

Of equal interest would be the portrayal of different types of agricultural operations, such as the production of wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, sugar cane, rice and other field crops, the cultivation of fruits and flowers, and the raising of cattle and livestock. In addition to murals there should be a gallery of paintings of agricultural leaders, representing all types of activity. A theater should likewise be provided where lectures, music, plays, ballets and moving pictures of agricultural interest might be presented.

Dioramas and Operating Models.

The evolution of agricultural machinery, rural architecture, electrification in farm regions, transportation, milling, tanning, meat-packing, and other types of processing should receive separate attention in appropriate exhibits, including the use of dioramas, operating models and full-sized originals. The museum should develop a special library, include provision for publishing magazines, bulletins and books, house and operate a radio station, maintain close relations with the agricultural press, cooperate with the land-grant colleges, and possess a microfilm and photostat laboratory for reproducing copies of literature about the museum, as well as pictures of its exhibits.

An important part of the museum should be the exhibits devoted to the social aspect of agricultural development. The life of the rural people should be fully portrayed for each era and for all classes and



TRIBUTE TO THE "FOUNDER OF MODERN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE"—Members of the National Agricultural Jefferson Bicentenary committee meeting in the rotunda of the University of Virginia. In the background is a statue of Thomas Jefferson, founder of the university. Seated directly behind the speaker at the microphone is Herbert A. Kellar, director of the McCormick Historical association, who outlined the plans for a national agricultural museum.

places. The relation of agriculture to geology, geography, climate and soils, entomology, biology, chemistry and engineering also merit adequate attention.

The National Agricultural museum should serve as the headquarters of important national farm organizations and provide appropriate quarters for this purpose. This would add prestige to the institution.

An essential feature of the museum would be to establish close relations with educational institutions and organizations. On its part the museum should offer general and special courses in the form of lectures, seminars and laboratory research pertaining to various phases of the history of agriculture and of technology in this and other countries. These courses should be open to the public, and qualified students should be permitted to take them for educational credits. In addition, the museum should provide internships for individuals desiring to specialize in the history of agriculture and technology or to learn agricultural museum technique. In reciprocity, educational agencies should invite members of the museum staff to lecture and to give courses to the students of the institutions and to arrange for regular visits of students to the museum for the purpose of information and instruction. In all the activities of the museum its facilities should be developed to promote a better understanding of democracy, as illustrated in our agricultural development. These and like activities fully carried out would undoubtedly justify the designation of the National Agricultural museum as a Living Agricultural museum.

Establish Branch Museums.

In addition to a National Agricultural museum located in Washington, there should be associated with it branch museums situated in different parts of the United States. These would be of such character as to merit the designation, Living Agricultural museums, to an even greater degree than the national institution.

These branch museums should take advantage of the existence in numerous places in this country of notable sites of representative agricultural activities which flourished in a former day and for a considerable period. Where possible such activities should be recreated at the original locations. Among those which come to mind are the production of wheat, corn, tobacco, cotton, rice, sugar cane, indigo, hemp, flax, vegetables, fruits, flowers, cattle and livestock, dairying, stock farming, maple sugar, turpentine and lumbering. As far as practical in each instance operations should be shown for several periods such as the colonial, post-revolutionary, ante-bellum, Civil War, reconstruction and early 20th century. Likewise, wherever earlier periods are shown, some attention should be given to present day operations to show contrast and evolution. Collections of physical objects, such as implements and machines, should also be assembled where pertinent to the particular activity.

The bonanza wheat farming of the Dakotas from the '70s to the '90s has long vanished—yet we know

where the Dalrymples were located and have information about them. The lumber camps of the same period in Michigan and Wisconsin no longer exist, yet we have voluminous records of particular companies and a few tracts of virgin timber are still standing. It would still be possible to acquire wheat land and timber, and to reestablish and operate a bonanza wheat farm or an old-time lumber camp.

There are a number of well-known tobacco, cotton, rice and sugar cane plantations in the South, and cattle ranches, dairies and stock farms in the Middle West and West where original ownership of land has passed and original agricultural activities are now changed. Some of these could be acquired and reestablished to operate as formerly.

In other instances the ownership has changed, but the original landholdings have been held together and still produce agricultural crops, though not always the same as before. Westover and Curles Neck and Claremont on the lower James are plantations of this type. Again, there are a surprising number of famous holdings which even today are owned by the same families which were in possession a hundred or more years ago. Shirley, the Carter estate on James river; Folly, the Cochran plantation in Augusta county; Walnut Grove, the McCormick farm in Rockbridge county; and Berry Hill, the Bruce plantation near Halifax, all of which are located in Virginia, meet this pattern. The same is true of the Middleton estate on the Cooper river, and Hampton Hall, the Rutledge plantation on the Santee river, both in South Carolina. In Louisiana, Rose-down, the Bowman family estate and the Cottage, long-time residence of the Butlers, should be added. The list could be considerably enlarged. In other cases such as Mount Vernon, Washington's estate, Stratford, the Lee plantation, Monticello, the residence of Jefferson, and the Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, memorial associations operate these places as museums, with major attention given to the main dwellings. The national park service operates Wakefield, the Washington house, and Arlington, the Lee residence, as well as other well-known places.

In keeping with the establishment of branch agricultural museums in various parts of the United States it would be appropriate to set up a Jefferson Agricultural Memorial association which might operate in connection with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial foundation at Monticello, Shadwell, Poplar Forest or other places directly associated with Jefferson. On one or more of these original Jefferson plantations two types of activities might be on display. One would be to carry out and reproduce the agricultural experiments recorded by Jefferson in his Garden Book and his Farm Book, including his development and trial of the moldboard plow. A second would be to relate these early enterprises to the latest and most advanced agricultural experiments of the present day. Set up side by side on the same plantation they would provide striking contrast between the early time and today and would indicate the evolution of agriculture in the United States.

Each farm into seven fields of 40 acres. The boundaries were marked by rows of peach trees. The seven fields indicated that his system of rotation of crops embraced seven years. He reduced corn to one year in seven and tobacco seems to have been eliminated entirely. He always stressed the maxim that where the soil is left bare the sun "absorbs the nutritious juices of the earth." Consequently, in his rotation system, he did not design-

Star Dust

STAGE-SCREEN-RADIO
By VIRGINIA VALE
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SAYS Teresa Wright, "I was bewildered and lonesome when I first came to Hollywood, but I had a job to do, and did the best I could." A swell job it was, too, and now she's doing another one; making a screen comeback. After 18 months absence from pictures, due to illness, she is currently appearing with Gary Cooper in International Pictures' "Casanova Brown," and will be starred in two other pictures before very long. After making a hit in two Broadway successes—and refusing a Hollywood contract be-



TERESA WRIGHT

cause she felt she wasn't ready for it—she made four outstanding pictures, won an "Oscar" for her work in "Mrs. Miniver," and was starred in her fourth one.

At Paramount they claim that Lucy Tarr is the homeliest girl in Hollywood, and Lucy doesn't care. She's been signed for the role of a hillbilly in "Murder, He Says," starring Fred MacMurray. "I've got a job out of my looks," she boasts.

Ted Donaldson, ten-year-old now completing the role of "Neely" in 20th Century-Fox's "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," is to get his first starring role in Columbia Pictures' "Rusty." It's a new sort of boy and a dog story, telling of the reformation of a vicious Nazi-trained dog by a boy. Young Donaldson scored a personal triumph in "Once Upon a Time," with Cary Grant and Janet Blair.

Some of our top radio commentators will be seen by the general public for the first time in Ralph Staub's Screen Snapshots subject, "Show Business at War"; he's signed up 30 of the leaders, including Louis P. Lochner and Raymond Gram Swing.

Bob Waterfield, UCLA football star recently given his honorable discharge from the marine corps, has been signed by Warner Bros. for an important role of a paratrooper in "Objective Burma," starring Errol Flynn. Waterfield may make a career of motion pictures instead of returning to the gridiron, as previously announced.

Hedy Lamarr, George Brent and Paul Lukas will be co-starred in "Experiment Perilous," Miss Lamarr's first appearance on the RKO lot. And that's quite an assignment for the girl—remember, Lukas won the Academy award for the best performance last year.

One of the oldest and most popular radio shows, the National Barn Dance, soon entering its eleventh year of continuous network broadcasting, has been engaged to appear in person at two midwest state fairs this summer. The entire cast will put on their traditional show at the Wisconsin state fair in Milwaukee on August 26, and at the Indiana state fair in Indianapolis on September 2.

NBC has a fine new series replacing "American Story." Twelve dramatizations, called "They Call Me Joe," tell the story of the contributions to America made by the various national and racial groups represented among our servicemen. Through the cooperation of the war department, the programs will also be heard by service men and women overseas.

The war department's morale service division, ASF, through the cooperation of CBS, will broadcast the science and geography programs of CBS' "The American School of the Air" to millions of service men and women stationed all over the world, starting October 9. Programs will be heard on battle fronts, troop transports, hospital ships, submarines and in general hospitals in the U. S.

ODDS AND ENDS—Betty Hutton began campaigning for the Texas Guinan role three years ago, when she was first signed by Paramount. . . . The Les Tremaynes hold weekly swing conclaves at their San Fernando Valley ranch. . . . Inspired by the success of "Abie's Irish Rose," Anne Nichols is preparing a sequel to it—thinks maybe it will be called "Abie's Irish Offspring." . . . Twelve Welsh folk songs will be used in Bette Davis' "The Corn Is Green"—they'll be sung by choral groups varying in size from 30 to 80 voices.

Farm Topics

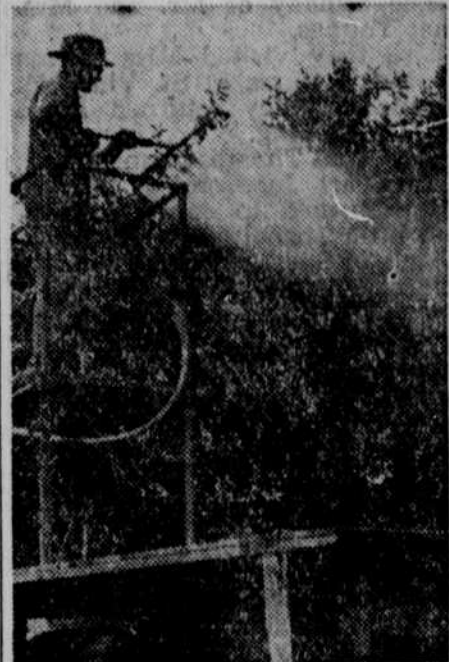
Red Mites Invading Many Prize Orchards

Proper Spraying Will Aid in Control Work

Fruit orchards are being attacked by an invader as deadly as any killer insect that ever flew or crawled. The common name for the pest in the east is the red mite.

The great danger in the case of red mite is that because it is a newcomer to many sections, the great majority of growers do not recognize it when evidences of its presence appear on their trees. State entomologists have many instances in their records where the grower was utterly dumfounded when informed his trees were being attacked by red mites.

This is probably true because damage is not immediately apparent. Since the red mite attacks the fruit itself, first indications of the damage appear on the leaves, which turn brown. By midsummer, the infestation has built up to the point where the whole tree has a bronze-like appearance. Once brown, the leaves, which are very



Fruit trees must be protected as never before. The red mites promise to do considerable damage in fruit orchards unless constant watch is kept and power spraying resorted to as needed.

essential in growing a healthy fruit crop, remain that way for the remainder of the season, resulting in undersized, poor quality fruit.

The red mite is present in the egg stage during the winter, hatching about the time growth starts. There are several generations during the summer, populations per leaf usually running from 50 to 100 mites, although they have been observed as high as 500 per leaf. The grower, who, upon examination, finds only a few mites on his foliage, should not feel secure, for the red mite has truly amazing reproductive powers. Even though only two mites are present, they may be responsible for an increase into the many thousands in as little as 78 hours.

There are effective, tested controls for red mite. Here is what Ray Hutson, well-known state entomologist, has to say on the subject:

"Meeting the red mite problem in the apple orchard is a proposition of picking out things that will do the most good, for various conditions have a tendency toward working against one another. Certain varieties (e. g. Delicious and Baldwin) are more susceptible. A 3 per cent dormant oil kills all red mite eggs that are hit. Two applications a week apart of a 1 per cent summer oil and foliage applications are effective.

Potato Digging Machine Proves Very Successful

A labor saving attachment that can be adapted to any power take-off potato digger has been developed by the rural engineering department at the Montana agricultural experiment station.

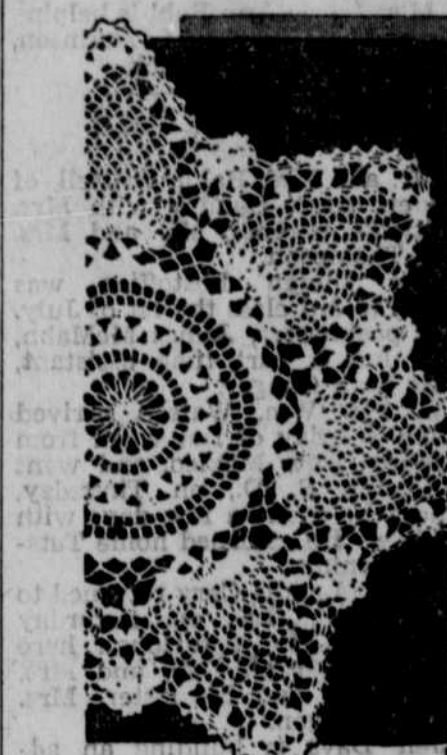
With the attachment the potatoes are dug, rocks and clods sorted out, and the tubers sacked and set off on the ground while the machine is in continual operation. After field tests, F. M. Harrington, head of the horticultural department at the station, estimates that the picking machine with a five-man crew does as much work as an 11-man crew picking by hand.

The station's potato digger was altered to raise the elevator apron and deliver the tubers onto a sorting conveyor instead of dropping them on the ground. As the potatoes travel along the conveyor, clods and rocks are removed.

Potatoes in Feed

Potato drying plants that have been handling low-grade potatoes purchased by the government for the past several months are still in operation, another government report says. Some of these dried potatoes are being used in livestock feeds, according to W. T. Grams of the New York State Agricultural Adjustment administration office. As they contain about 8 per cent protein, little fiber, and much carbohydrate, they have real feed value.

THINGS for You TO MAKE



5735



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5737

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